

From: Howard Coles
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 2:37pm
Subject: MS Monopoly

Dear Sirs,

I would just like to express my concern toward any resolution or settlement that would further a monopoly for Microsoft products.

It would appear that the current proposed settlement would cause Microsoft to have to "donate" Hardware, Software, and services to under privileged school systems.

I believe that it should be obvious that this would introduce more young minds to Windows thus furthering Microsoft's control, and ultimately leading to more users of their OS. I think it would be more of a punishment for them to provide another brand of OS, Hardware, Software and Services. If you allow them to extend their control will the result not be a stronger monopoly? If you have kept current with Microsoft's current practices then you will understand that they are already setting in motion a licensing scheme that locks you into their products for years, while trying to setup a "single sign on" system (.NET) that would provide them with everyone's information.

As you can discern from this message I am very much against them providing more MS software. I feel that RedHat's suggestion is viable, let MS Provide everything EXCEPT the OS, and help create a competitive product that will enable consumers to have a truly viable option. The exact OS to provide would not necessarily be RedHat's Linux, but considering their offer would be a very good idea.

I also feel that it would be in everyone's best interest to force Microsoft to remove any hint of a penalty, either in their licensing or reseller/OEM agreements, to Computer hardware providers who opt to preinstall any OS other than Microsoft's.

Thank You,
Howard Coles Jr.
Network Analyst II